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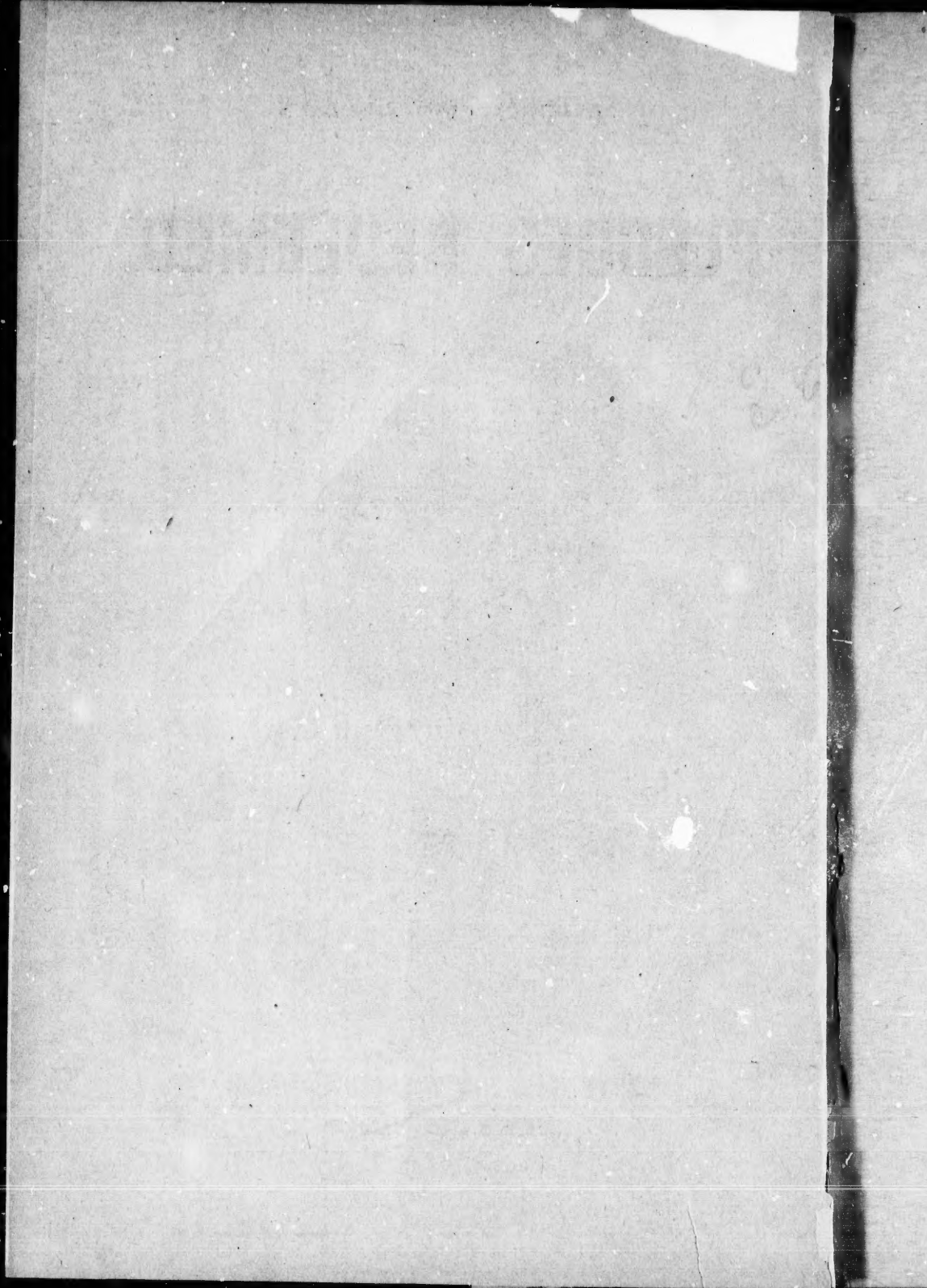
POLITICAL POINTERS No. 3.

# PLEDGES REDEEMED.

22560



**RIGHT HON. SIR WILFRID LAURIER,  
PREMIER OF CANADA.**



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ISSUED JUNE, 1900

**POLITICAL POINTERS No. 3.**

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**PLEDGES REDEEMED**

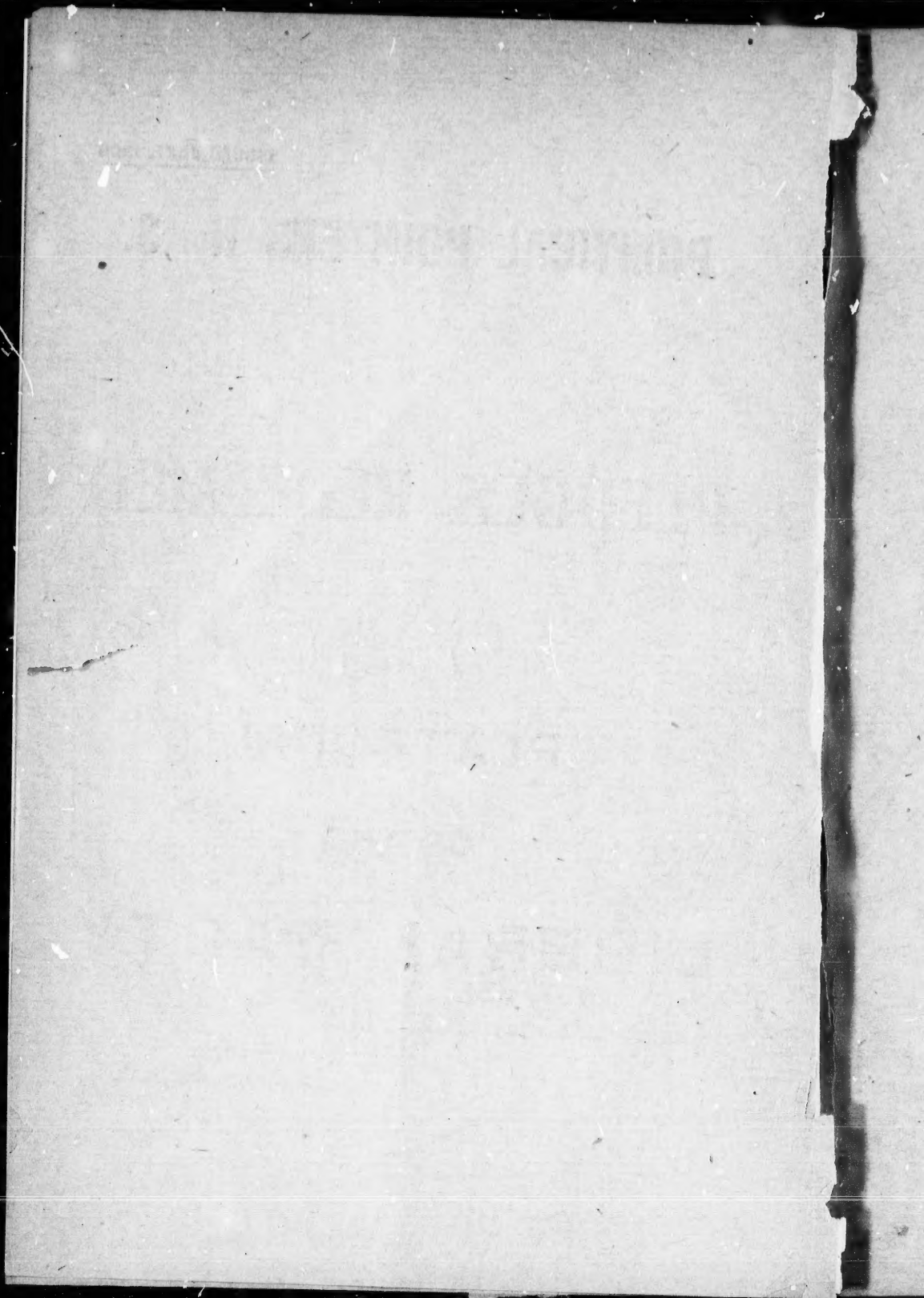
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**PLATFORM  
OF THE  
LIBERAL PARTY**

Copies of this Pamphlet may be had from

**ALEXANDER SMITH,**

Secretary Ontario Liberal Association,  
34 Victoria Street, Toronto





# PROMISES AND PERFORMANCES.

## PLANK No. I—TARIFF.

We, the Liberal party of Canada, in convention assembled  
Ottawa, June, 1893, declare :

That the customs tariff of the Dominion should be based, not as it is now, upon the protective principle, but upon the requirements of the public service ; that the existing tariff, founded upon an unsound principle, and used, as it has been by the Government, as a corrupting agency wherewith to keep themselves in office, has developed monopolies, trusts and combinations : It has decreased the value of farm and other landed property ; it has oppressed the masses to the enrichment of a few ; it has checked immigration ; it has caused great loss of population ; it has impeded commerce ; it has discriminated against Great Britain.

In these and in many other ways it has occasioned great public and private injury, all of which evils must continue to grow in intensity as long as the present tariff system remains in force.

That the highest interests of Canada demand a removal of this obstacle to our country's progress, by the adoption of a sound fiscal policy, which, while not doing injustice to any class, will promote domestic and foreign trade, and hasten the return of prosperity to our people ; that to that end, the tariff should be reduced to the needs of honest, economical and efficient government ; that it should be so adjusted as to make free, or to bear as lightly as possible upon the necessities of life, and should be so arranged as to promote freer trade with the whole world, **more particularly with Great Britain and the United States.** We believe that the results of the protective system have grievously disappointed thousands of persons who honestly supported it, and that the country, in the light of experience, is now prepared to declare for a sound fiscal policy.

The issue between the two political parties on this question is now clearly defined. The Government themselves admit the failure of their fiscal policy, and now profess their willingness to make some changes ; but they say that such changes must be based only on the principle of protection. We denounce the principle of protection as radically unsound, and unjust to the masses of the people, and we declare our conviction that any tariff changes based on that principle must fail to afford any substantial relief from the burdens under which the country labors. This issue we unhesitatingly accept, and upon it we await with the fullest confidence the verdict of the electors of Canada.

The Tariff has been materially reduced.

The reduction is equivalent to about ten per cent. of the duty as compared with the average rate under the Conservative Tariff of 1896,

and it will be greater when the further reduction under the Preferential Tariff comes into operation on the first day of July, 1900.

The reduction in Customs taxation since the Liberal Tariff came into operation has been not less than six millions of dollars; to put it in other words, if the Conservative Tariff had been in operation, not less than six millions of dollars more Customs taxation would have been imposed upon the people.

In addition to these reductions there have been large savings to the people through the operation of the British Preferential Tariff, which compels a reduction in the price of goods imported into Canada from foreign countries in competition with British goods, as well as controlling and regulating the prices of Canadian manufacturers on various classes of goods made by them.

The changes made in the Tariff by the Liberal Government were especially beneficial to the farming community. Important articles of necessity to the farmer, such as Indian corn, binder twine, barbed and other fencing wire, Cream separators, etc., were transferred to the free list, and the rates of duty on many other articles of necessity were substantially reduced.

If the Conservative Tariff had been in operation last fiscal year, one million dollars in duty would have been paid on the importations of articles chiefly for the farmer, *which were admitted free of duty under the Liberal Tariff.*

Manufacturing industries were stimulated by a reduction of the rates of duty on coal, iron and steel and other staple raw materials. Many items of iron and steel were transferred to the free list.

The Liberal Tariff is based upon revenue as a principle.

It does no injustice to any class.

It has promoted domestic and foreign trade,

The aggregate foreign trade of Canada for the fiscal year 1898-9 was 321 millions, while for the fiscal year 1895-6, which was the last year under the regime of the Conservative party, it was only 239 millions. During the eighteen years the Conservatives were in office the foreign trade increased by 66 millions. During the three years to the end of June, 1899, since the Liberals came into power, it increased 82 millions. For the last three years of the Conservative regime the total foreign trade amounted to 704 millions, while for the three years from 1896 to the end of June, 1899, under Liberal rule, the total foreign trade amounted to 883 millions.

The latest figures indicate that the trade of the fiscal year 1899-1900 will be over 50 millions in excess of the last fiscal year. These figures prove conclusively that the Liberal Tariff has fostered and promoted foreign trade.

Figures cannot be given to show the increase in domestic trade, but that the increase has been enormous is a self-evident fact. Every legitimate industry, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, is prospering, and there is general prosperity throughout the land. Manufacturers never were in a better position. The reduction in duties has served to stimulate them to greater business efforts, has made them more independent, and they are to-day in a better position to meet the competition of the world than they ever were before.

The outstanding feature of the Liberal Government trade policy is the British Preferential Tariff. The adoption of that preference was the best stroke of business Canada ever did. No step that had theretofore been taken did more to promote the unification of the Empire. No step was more beneficial to Canada. The practical features of the preference are briefly as follows:

First, it involves a very large direct reduction in the duties paid by the Canadian consumer, as compared with the duties paid by him under the Conservative Tariff.

Second, it also operates indirectly to the benefit of the Canadian consumer. The foreign competitors of Britain in our markets must reduce their prices to meet the preference in duty granted to Britain, as well as its controlling influence to reduce the prices on certain classes of Canadian manufactured goods. The consumer, therefore, is benefitted by the reduction in prices.

3rd. It has resulted in largely increased sales of British goods to Canada. For years prior to its adoption Great Britain's exports to Canada had steadily fallen off. The Preference at once arrested the decline, and the trade has increased ever since.

4th. It has also resulted in a wonderful increase in the exports of the products of our farms to Great Britain.

It is worthy of special note that the reduction under the Preferential Tariff is to be increased from 25 per cent. to 33½ per cent. on and after the first day of July, 1900. This in effect means that for every three dollars to be paid on American or other foreign goods, only two dollars will be paid on British goods.

It is generally considered by all who have taken the trouble to study the question, that the new tariff enacted by the Liberal Government was a well-considered, judicious, business-like and very material measure of reform, in view of all the existing circumstances.

Besides granting the Preference the Liberal Government reduced the duty on 145 of the 968 articles in the dutiable list of the statistical classification, and 46 of the 481 items in the free list of the present tariff were on the dutiable list of the statistical classification under the old tariff.



## Record of Prosperity, Progress and Development under Liberal Rule.

|                                                                                  | Conservative, 1896. | Liberal, 1899. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Aggregate Foreign Trade .....                                                    | \$239,025,360       | \$321,661,213  |
| Total Imports .....                                                              | 118,011,508         | 162,764,308    |
| “ Exports .....                                                                  | 121,013,852         | 158,896,905    |
| “ Exports, produce of Canadian<br>Farms .....                                    | 50,591,002          | 69,696,045     |
| Exports of Canadian Mines .....                                                  | 8,059,650           | 13,368,150     |
| Exports of Canadian Forests .....                                                | 27,175,686          | 28,021,529     |
| Exports of Canadian Manufactures ....                                            | 9,365,384           | 11,706,707     |
| Circulation of Bank and Dominion notes                                           | 57,562,703          | 76,664,545     |
| Bank Clearings in six principal cities<br>for 1897* .....                        | 1,174,710,345       | 1,549,966,696  |
| *Figures for 1896 not available.                                                 |                     |                |
| Discounts in Chartered Banks .....                                               | 224,507,301         | 283,713,938    |
| Deposits in Chartered and Savings Banks                                          | 230,569,310         | 308,644,058    |
| Railways Gross Earnings .....                                                    | 50,545,569          | 62,213,784     |
| Railways—miles in operation .....                                                | 16,270              | 17,250         |
| Freight carried by Railways—tons ....                                            | 24,266,825          | 31,211,753     |
| Shipping—exclusive of Coasting Trade<br>—tons .....                              | 21,870,473          | 25,420,110     |
| Shipping—Coasting Trade—tons .....                                               | 27,431,753          | 30,212,496     |
| Business Failures .....                                                          | 16,208,460          | 10,658,675     |
| Immigrants—No .....                                                              | 16,835              | 44,543         |
| Importation of Settlers' Effects .....                                           | 2,188,975           | 2,805,956      |
| Mineral Products .....                                                           | 22,584,513          | 46,245,878     |
| No. Letters posted in Canada .....                                               | 116,028,000         | 150,375,000    |
| No. Post Offices .....                                                           | 9,103               | 9,420          |
| No. Post Cards posted .....                                                      | 24,794,800          | 27,450,000     |
| No. Registered Letters posted .....                                              | 3,505,500           | 3,675,400      |
| Homestead Entries of Dominion Lands<br>—No .....                                 | 1,857               | 6,689          |
| Letters Patent for Dominion Lands<br>issued—No .....                             | 2,665               | 3,904          |
| Lands sold by Railway and other Com-<br>panies having Govt. Land grants... acres | 108,016             | 553,075        |
| value                                                                            | 361,338             | 1,871,224      |
| Fire Insurance Risks—                                                            |                     |                |
| In Canadian Companies .....                                                      | 141,251,862         | 169,792,859    |
| In British Companies .....                                                       | 591,656,008         | 654,890,000    |
| In American Companies .....                                                      | 112,666,482         | 122,186,809    |
| Life Insurance in force—                                                         |                     |                |
| In Canadian Companies .....                                                      | 195,303,042         | 252,219,758    |
| In British Companies .....                                                       | 34,837,448          | 38,026,272     |
| In American Companies .....                                                      | 97,660,009          | 113,889,563    |

NOTE.—The latest figures indicate that the total trade for the fiscal year 1899.  
1900 will be over \$372,000,000.

ment

eral, 1895.

1,661,213

2,764,308

8,896,905

9,696,045

3,368,150

8,021,529

1,706,707

6,664,545

9,966,696

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2,805,956

6,245,878

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1,871,224

9,792,859

4,890,000

2,186,809

2,219,758

8,026,272

3,889,563

year 1899.

## PLANK No. 2.—RECIPROCITY.

That, having regard to the prosperity of Canada and the United States as adjoining countries, with many mutual interests, it is desirable that there should be the most friendly relations and broad and liberal trade intercourse between them; that the interests alike of the Dominion and of the Empire would be materially advanced by the establishing of such relations;

That the period of the old reciprocity treaty was one of marked prosperity to the British North American colonies;

That the pretext under which the Government appealed to the country in 1891 respecting negotiations for a treaty with the United States was misleading and dishonest and intended to deceive the electorate;

That no sincere effort has been made by them to obtain a treaty, but that, on the contrary, it is manifest that the present Government, controlled as they are by monopolies and combines, are not desirous of securing such a treaty;

That the first step towards obtaining the end in view, is to place a party in power who are sincerely desirous of promoting a treaty on terms honorable to both countries;

That a fair and liberal reciprocity treaty would develop the great natural resources of Canada, would enormously increase the trade and commerce between the two countries, would tend to encourage friendly relations between the two peoples, would remove many causes which have in the past provoked irritation and trouble to the Governments of both countries, and would promote those kindly relations between the Empire and the Republic which afford the best guarantee for peace and prosperity;

That the Liberal party is prepared to enter into negotiations with a view to obtaining such a treaty, including a well considered list of manufactured articles, and we are satisfied that any treaty so arranged will receive the assent of Her Majesty's Government, without whose approval no treaty can be made.

The Liberal party has acted up to this resolution, both in its letter and spirit. Soon after the Government was formed, a delegation was sent to Washington to discuss the subject in an informal way. The moment was not favorable for immediate action. It was a time when the Democratic Government was about retiring, and the Republican Government was about taking office. No action could be expected at such a time. But it was deemed well at the earliest possible moment to cause an intimation to be given to the leading men of the United States that if they were disposed to talk reciprocity, Canada was ready to give the subject fair consideration. Some months after this, the United States authorities responded to the suggestion. They intimated their willingness to have a Joint High Commission for the purpose of discussing reciprocity and all other questions pending between the two countries. The Commission was appointed, and met first at Quebec and afterwards at Washington. Some progress was made,

But serious difficulties arose on the question of the Alaska boundary. The American representatives made demands upon Canada which the Liberal Government thought were exacting and unreasonable, and that should not be agreed to. The whole question was thus postponed for further consideration. The Joint High Commissioner has not been dissolved. If the United States authorities are disposed to take what Canada believes to be a more reasonable view of the pending questions, the Commission may meet again. What has already happened gives to all Canadians the fullest assurance that while disposed to cultivate better trade relations with the neighboring Republic the Government of Canada may be relied on to defend Canadian interests, and not to agree to any arrangement that is not fair and just to the Dominion.

The British Commissioners were appointed by the Home Government. Lord Herschell was elected Chairman and the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright, Hon. Sir Louis H. Davies, and John Charlton, M.P., were appointed by the Imperial Government as the Canadian Commissioners.

This alone indicates the immense progress that Canada has made in national development during the past three years. In previous times Canada has occasionally been permitted to nominate one Commissioner in the case of International negotiations but never before was she permitted to appoint 4 out of 5 commissioners to represent the Imperial Government in great negotiations of this kind

### PLANK No. 3.—PURITY OF ADMINISTRATION.

That the Convention deplores the gross corruption in the management and expenditure of public moneys which for years past has existed under the rule of the Conservative party, and the revelations of which by the different parliamentary committees of inquiry have brought disgrace upon the fair name of Canada. The Government which profited politically by these expenditures of public moneys of which the people have been defrauded, and which, nevertheless, have never punished the guilty parties, must be held responsible for the wrongdoing. We arraign the Government for retaining in office a Minister of the Crown proved to have accepted very large contributions of money for election purposes from the funds of a railway company, which, while paying the political contributions to him, a member of the Government, with one hand, was receiving Government subsidies with the other. The conduct of the Minister and the approval of his colleagues after the proof became known to them are calculated to degrade Canada in the estimation of the world and deserve the severe condemnation of the people.

The history of the Conservative Government amply justified the passing of this resolution. No such transactions as were disclosed in the investigations relating to the public works under Conservative rule have occurred under the Liberal Administration.

The party now led by Sir Charles Tupper has produced a terrible record of scandals. Some incidents of this record are:—The McGreevy-Langevin scandal, Senecal's Commissions, Curran Bridge scandal, Wet Basin scandal, Levis Graving Dock scandal, Cross Wall Contract scandal, Esquimalt Dock scandal, Section "B" scandal, Harris Land Job, Cochrane scandal, the Tay canal scandal, the Little Rapids Lock scandal, Galops Channel scandal, the Rykert Timber Limit scandal, the C. P. R. scandal, the Bribery Conspiracy of 1884, Manitoba Election Frauds, Wholesale Bribery in South Ontario by Wm. Smith, a Tory ex-M.P., Nest of Traitors, Montague's Letter to the Indians, the Anonymous Letter Writer, and many other such terrible practices.

### PLANK No. 4—STRICTEST ECONOMY.

We cannot but view with alarm the large increase of the public debt and of the controllable annual expenditure of the Dominion and the consequent undue taxation of the people under the Governments that have been continuously in power since 1878, and we demand the strictest economy in the administration of the government of the country.

This resolution has been fully carried out.

There has been economy in the true sense of the word in the administration of the government of the country. Economy is not parsimony. It means wise and prudent expenditure for necessary purposes. No one ever seriously supposed that with the increasing business of Canada there would never be any increase in the expenditure. What the Liberal party claimed was that the increase of expenditure under the Conservative administration was out of all proportion to the increase of population and business.

Though the total annual expenditure has increased under the Liberal administration, an examination of the figures will show that in proportion to the development of Canada and to the volume of business transacted there has been a substantial reduction in the expenditure.

In comparing the expenditures under the Conservative and Liberal administrations the very important fact should be carefully borne in mind that abnormal conditions in trade and commerce have prevailed since the Liberals took office. A new business age; a new age of development, arose in Canada after 1896. Business has progressed by leaps and bounds, the foreign trade having been increased by fifty per cent. in four years; new sections of the country, such as the Yukon and Kootenay Districts have been opened up and developed; the production of minerals has increased enormously; the exodus has largely stopped; the population has rapidly increased; the total income of the people is estimated to have increased since 1895 by fifty millions,—in short, there has been wonderful development and progress all along



the lines, so much so that a fair comparison of expenditure cannot well be made with the expenditure under the conditions that prevailed four years ago.

Increased development, increased trade, and increased population involve increased national expenditure. As a business man's expenses increase with the expansion of his business, so with a nation. There are hundreds of business men in Canada to-day who are paying out for business expenses two or three times as much as they paid four years ago, but no one will be so stupid as to say that this additional expenditure is an evidence of business incapacity or of extravagance.

The increased expenditure under the Liberal administration has been along the right lines. There have been no corrupt or improper expenditures. To facilitate and expand trade and commerce and to develop the great mineral, agricultural and forest wealth of the country, have been the great objects of the Liberal Government, and liberal expenditures have been made in furtherance thereof. Transportation facilities have been improved, canals have been rushed to completion, harbors have been deepened and rivers made more navigable. Cold storage systems have been inaugurated and perfected. Immigration has been promoted vigorously. Agriculture has been fostered. Government railways have been extended. The Kootenay District has been developed by the granting of government aid, the Yukon District also has been developed. All these improvements and enterprises involve expenditure, and who will say that the expenditure has been unwise? Certainly not the Conservative party, for they failed to record by their votes in the House of Commons their protest against it. The Liberal Government and party have nothing to apologize for in connection with their financial record; on the contrary they are proud of it.

**For every additional dollar that has been expended there has been more than an ample return to the people.**

To come down to particulars. The expenditure under Consolidation Account (which is the ordinary annual expenditure of the nation) under the Conservative administration in 1894-5, (which was their last fair year's expenditure, the accounts of 1895-6 being cooked through the process of starving legitimate services) amounted to \$38,132,005. In 1898-9, under the Liberal administration it amounted to \$41,903,500, or an increase of \$3,771,495. This expenditure of 1898-9, however, includes two new important services which did not exist during the Conservative administration, namely, the Yukon and the additional expense of Intercolonial railway management, arising from the extension of the railway to Montreal. Although these services swell the expenditure under Consolidated Account, the expenditures are only nominal, because as a matter of fact a larger

amount by way of revenue than the expenditure is received through them. To illustrate this, in three years from 1896-7 to 1898-9 there was expended in the Yukon District by the Government the total sum of \$2,372,340.74, and revenue was obtained from the District to the amount of \$2,572,646.35. It will be seen, therefore, that the development of the Yukon was defrayed by the Yukon and did not cost the people of the older parts of Canada anything, while at the same time they got the benefit of the trade from the new district.

In order to make a fair comparison with 1894-5, the amounts expended for these two new services require to be deducted from the total expenditure of 1898-9. The expenditure in the Yukon District in 1898-9 amounted to \$971,938.87. Owing to the fact that the accounts of the Railway Department are not subdivided to show the cost of running the different sections of the Intercolonial Railway it is not possible to state with any degree of accuracy the amount of the increased annual expenditure consequent upon the extension of the railway from Levis to Montreal, but approximately it amounted to several hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The net increase, exclusive of these two new services, is accounted for largely in the manner above indicated, that is to say, through increased development, increased trade and increased population.

As an illustration of this, there have been increases in the following services:—

|                                                                 |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Immigration .....                                               | \$ 30,225 |
| Ocean and River Services and Lighthouse and Coast Service ..... | 194,903   |
| Railways and Canals .....                                       | 674,411   |
| Agriculture, Cold Storage .....                                 | 42,042    |
| Trade and Commerce .....                                        | 77,534    |
| Customs Services .....                                          | 120,003   |
| Mail Subsidies and Steamboat Subventions ..                     | 70,778    |
| Public Works .....                                              | 174,556   |
| Interest on Public Debt .....                                   | 388,817   |
| Sinking Funds .....                                             | 480,173   |

These last two items are accounted for by the increased capital expenditure for development of canals and transportation facilities and for the development of the country generally.

Another important increase in expenditure should be noted, namely, \$538,278 on account of Militia and Defence. The expenditure under this head in 1894-5 was \$1,574,013, while in 1898-9 it was \$2,112,291.79. The Militia is to-day better equipped than ever before, and our defences are in every way in better condition.

Although there has been a nominal increase in the expenditure along proper lines, it will be found in comparison with the volume of

business transacted that there has been an actual reduction in the expenditure. Take for instance the cost of collection of revenue. There was expended in 1898-9 the sum of \$9,837,453 under the head of collection of revenue, while in 1894-5 the expenditure under this head was only \$9,129,416. But while there was thus a nominal increase in 1898-9, the percentage cost of collection in 1898-9 was 21 per cent. whereas in 1894-5 it was 27 per cent.

The total expenditure of the Customs Department was \$120,000 more in 1898-9 than it was in 1894-5, but the percentage cost of collecting decreased from 5.13 in 1894-5 to 4.02 in 1898-9.

If we turn to the Post Office Department we find that the average annual deficit of about three-quarters of a million dollars, in the working of the Department under Conservative rule, was reduced in two short years by the present administration to a deficit of only \$47,000, thereby making possible the reduction in postage rates which has been such a boon to the people. Notwithstanding the facts that since the Liberals took office 317 new Post Offices and 83 new Post Office Savings Banks have been established, that there are 40 per cent. more money order offices and that the number of miles the mails are carried by railway and stage has increased by no less than 1,373,849 miles, the expenditure of the Department was only increased a paltry ten thousand dollars in 1898-9 over 1894-5. The cost of these new offices and services amounts to many hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Take another illustration. The total aggregate foreign trade of the country for the fiscal year 1894-5 was \$224,420,485. The expenditure chargeable to the Consolidated Fund that year amounted to \$38,132,005, equal to 17 per cent. of the total trade. The total trade of 1898-9 was \$321,661,213. The total expenditure for that year chargeable to Consolidated Fund was \$41,903,500, equal to 13 per cent. of the total trade. This shows a reduction of 4 per cent. from 17 per cent., equivalent to a reduction at the rate of about 25 per cent. in the cost of carrying on the business of the country.

Under the head of Civil Government, which is the expenditure of the Civil Service at Ottawa, the expenditure increased under Conservative rule at the rate of about \$25,000 per annum. If this increase had been maintained by the Liberals there would have been an increase in 1898-9 over 1894-5 of \$75,000, but instead of that there was a decrease of \$10,414.

There were also decreases in the following services:

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Legislation .....    | \$ 49,216 |
| Penitentiaries ..... | 32,660    |
| Dominion Lands ..... | 36,813    |
| Mounted Police ..... | 117,056   |
| Fisheries .....      | 31,455    |

In fact the pruning knife was applied wherever it could be with safety and wisdom.

Notwithstanding the increased expenditure, the Liberal Government has been able to show some handsome surpluses, instead of large deficits, which were shown during the closing years of the Conservative administration. The following table substantiates this statement:

| <i>Under Conservatives.</i>         |             | Deficit.       |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1893-4 .....                        | \$1,210,332 | 45             |
| 1894-5 .....                        | 4,153,875   | 58             |
| 1895-6 .....                        | 330,551     | 31             |
| Total deficit for three years ..... |             | \$5,694,759 34 |
| Average annual deficit .....        |             | 1,898,253 11   |

| <i>Under Liberals.</i>                   |             | Deficit.     | Surplus. |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| 1896-7 .....                             | \$519,981   | 44           | .....    |
| 1897-8 .....                             | \$1,722,712 | 33           | .....    |
| 1898-9 .....                             | 4,837,749   | 00           | .....    |
|                                          |             | \$6,560,461  | 33       |
|                                          |             | 519,981      | 44       |
| Total surplus for three years .....      |             | \$6,040,479  | 89       |
| Average annual surplus .....             |             | 2,013,493    | 29       |
| Deficit, three years, 1893 to 1896 ..... |             | \$5,694,759  | 34       |
| Surplus, three years, 1896 to 1899 ..... |             | 6,040,479    | 89       |
| Betterment, last three years .....       |             | \$11,735,239 | 23       |

It is predicted that for the present fiscal year, 1899-00, there will be a surplus on Consolidated Account of over seven million dollars, the largest in the history of the country.

To turn to a consideration of the public debt. The increase of the public debt for the three years since 1896 amounted to \$7,776,013, being an average annual increase of \$2,592,004. Two and a half millions or round figures of this amount of \$7,776,013, added to the debt, were expended in paying obligations entered into by the late Government or obligations which existed prior to the Liberal Government coming into power, and which should have been met by the previous Government. In fairness, therefore, this amount should be deducted to make a proper comparison, and if this be done it will be found that the average annual increase to the public debt under the Liberal administration was only \$1,700,000. During the eighteen years the Conservatives were in power the debt increased by the large sum of \$118,135,362, or an average annual increase of \$6,563,075.



Although the debt under the Liberal administration increased at a very much smaller ratio than under the previous administration, it should be particularly noted that under the Liberal administration considerably more money was expended on capital account, which goes to increase the public debt. This is fully illustrated by the following statement:

Statement of expenditure chargeable to Capital,  
etc., for six years.

*Under Conservatives.*

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1894 .....  | \$4,798,317 37  |
| 1895 .....  | 4,192,820 61    |
| 1896 .....  | 5,860,345 58    |
| Total ..... | \$14,853,883 56 |

*Under Liberals.*

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1897 .....  | \$3,085,399 78  |
| 1898 .....  | 5,073,877 06    |
| 1899 .....  | 8,508,263 50    |
| Total ..... | \$16,667,540 34 |

One important fact in connection with the finances requires to be stated and emphasized, and that is that the increased expenditure consequent upon the great development of the country has been met without increasing the rate of taxation and without unduly increasing the public debt. On the contrary, the rate of Customs taxation, which is the greatest source of revenue, is lower; postage rates are lower, and the public debt has been increased very little, and at a much smaller ratio than under the Conservative administration. These facts are evidences of wise and prudent business administration.

It is unquestionable that the population of the country has greatly increased in recent years. There are a hundred evidences in support of that fact, but until a census is taken it cannot be officially established. Increased population means a decrease in the per capita expenditure and debt. It is not going outside the mark by any means to state that, based upon our actual population, our per capita debt and expenditure is to-day much lower than it was under the Conservative regime.

## PLANK No. 5.—INDEPENDENCE OF PARLIAMENT.

That the Convention regrets that by the action of Ministers and their supporters in Parliament, in one case in which serious charges were made against a Minister of the Crown, investigation was altogether refused, while in another case the charges preferred were altered and then referred to a commission appointed upon the advice of the Ministry contrary to the well settled practice of Parliament; and this Convention affirms:

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That it is the ancient and undoubted right of the House of Commons to inquire into all matters of public expenditure, and into all charges of misconduct in office against Ministers of the Crown, and the reference of such matters to royal commissions created upon the advice of the accused is at variance with the due responsibility of Ministers to the House of Commons, and tends to weaken the authority of the House over the Executive Government, and this Convention affirms that the powers of the people's representatives in this regard should on all fitting occasions be upheld.

The circumstances referred to in this resolution were such as to demand the notice which the Convention took of the matter. The doctrine thus laid down by the Liberal party as to the right of Parliament to enquire into all matters connected with the public expenditure, and into all charges of misconduct against Ministers of the Crown, has been fully maintained.

### PLANK No. 6.—THE LAND FOR THE SETTLER.

That in the opinion of this Convention the sales of public lands of the Dominion should be to actual settlers only, and not to speculators, upon reasonable terms of settlement, and in such areas as can be reasonably occupied and cultivated by the settler.

The policy of the present Government is, and has been, to dispose of Dominion lands to actual settlers only, and not to speculators. The granting of large tracts of arable land for railway purposes has been abandoned, and similar grants to colonization societies have also been discontinued. The public lands are now held for entry as homesteads; for sale subject to homestead conditions. In the case of lands—the sales of which have been cancelled, they are offered and held for ordinary sale to settlers who wish to acquire a larger area than the homestead quarter section—but not exceeding one section to each individual.

### PLANK No. 7.—PROVINCIAL FRANCHISE.

That the Franchise Act since its introduction has cost the Dominion Treasury over a million of dollars, besides entailing a heavy expenditure to both political parties; That each revision involves an additional expenditure of a further quarter of a million; That this expenditure has prevented an annual revision, as originally intended, in the absence of which young voters, entitled to the franchise have, in numerous instances, been prevented from exercising their natural rights; That it has failed to secure uniformity, which was the principal reason assigned for its introduction; That it has produced gross abuses by partizan revising barristers appointed by the Government of the day; That its provisions are less liberal than those already existing in many Provinces of the Dominion, and that in the opinion of this Convention the Act should be repealed, and we could revert to the Provincial Franchise.

The Franchise Act has been repealed, and the Provincial franchises are now in use and operation for Dominion election purposes,

### **PLANK No. 8.—COUNTY BOUNDARIES FOR RIDINGS.**

That by the Gerrymander Acts, the electoral divisions for the return of members to the House of Commons have been so made as to prevent a fair expression of the opinion of the country at the general elections, and to secure to the party now in power a strength out of all proportion greater than the number of electors supporting them would warrant. To put an end to this abuse, to make the House of Commons a fair exponent of public opinion, and to preserve the historic continuity of counties, it is desirable that in the formation of electoral divisions, county boundaries should be preserved, and that in no case parts of different counties should be put in one electoral division.

Two earnest attempts were made to repeal the worst features of the "Gerrymander" Acts, and to restore county boundaries, but the partisan Senate refused to pass the Bills, which had been successfully and by large majorities passed through the House of Commons.

### **PLANK No. 9.—THE SENATE.**

The present constitution of the Senate is inconsistent with the Federal principle in our system of government, and is in other respects defective, as it makes the Senate independent of the people and uncontrolled by the public opinion of the country, and should be so amended as to bring it into harmony with the principles of popular government.

This is the only plank that so far has not been effectively dealt with by the Liberal Government, but the subject has not been lost sight of. Great constitutional changes of this kind involve much consideration, and the co-operation of the Imperial Government and Parliament.

### **PLANK No. 10.—PROHIBITION PLEBISCITE.**

That whereas public attention is at present much directed to the consideration of the admittedly great evils of intemperance, it is desirable that the mind of the people should be clearly ascertained on the question of Prohibition by means of a Dominion Plebiscite.

A Dominion Plebiscite was taken, and this pledge, therefore, kept to the letter.

The Opposition frequently misrepresent the situation by alleging that the pledge of the party was to grant Prohibition. The words above quoted from the official platform show distinctly that no such pledge was ever made. The declaration of the Liberal Convention was that a plebiscite should be taken to ascertain the mind of the people on the question of Prohibition, leaving Parliament perfectly free to take such course, after the plebiscite, as might be deemed best, in the interest of the country.



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